

5 May 1947.

The Honorable Richard F. Welch, Chairman
House Committee on Public Lands
House Office Building
Washington, 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Welch:

I should like to express my support of H.R. 1555, entitled "A Bill to promote uniformity of geographic nomenclature in the Federal Government, and for other purposes."

The Central Intelligence Group was established by Executive Directive dated 22 January 1946, a copy of which is attached herewith. Paragraph 8 of this Directive states that "other Departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall furnish such intelligence information relating to the national security as is in their possession, and as the Director of Central Intelligence may from time to time request. ..." In accordance with this paragraph, we have from time to time sought information from the Board of Geographical Names in the Department of the Interior. Their services have in each instance been of invaluable assistance to us. It is felt that the continuation of their existence by enabling legislation, together with the necessary appropriations, would materially assist the Central Intelligence Group in certain of the tasks assigned to it.

The Central Intelligence Group, under the Executive Directive cited above, is charged with planning for the coordination of foreign intelligence activities of the United States. In addition, it must accomplish the correlation and evaluation of intelligence related to the national security and disseminate the resultant national intelligence to the appropriate officials and departments of the Government. In the dissemination of this intelligence, it is of the utmost necessity that agreement be reached on geographic names. It is quite difficult to prepare an intelligence estimate when information furnished by one Department contains a form of a name not known to another Department to which the material is disseminated. Standardization in this connection is rapidly becoming mandatory in the intelligence field.

For these reasons, the Central Intelligence Group has established the policy that uniformity in geographic names within the intelligence agencies of the State, War and Navy Departments

and the Central Intelligence Group can best be accomplished by utilization of the Board. However, the scope of the work of the Board far transcends the field of intelligence, and therefore is most appropriately placed in the Department of the Interior.

For the reasons stated above, particularly in facilitating the interchangeability of intelligence information and the standardization of intelligence geographic indexing techniques, the Central Intelligence Group urges favorable action on H.R. 1555 and its further implementation by the authorization of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Board.

I would appreciate your making this letter a part of the record of the hearings before your Committee on this bill.

Sincerely,

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